

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Patent Application No. 10/572,927

Applicant: van Rens et al.

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.